

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 20th instant, for the erection of a new church at Birmingham; by 24th, for works to be executed in New Pauper Lunatic Asylum, at Powick, Worcester; by 6th, for the several works required in finishing 12 six-roomed and 5 eight-roomed houses now in carcase, at Islington; by 13th, for various works in erection of St. Luke's Church, Morton, near Bingley; by 20th October, for the erection of new grammar schools and master's house, &c. at Loughborough; by 4th inst., for additional building and alterations of Penrith Workhouse; by 11th, for the erection of a station and platform at Cosham, near Portsmouth; by 8th, for the erection of a weaving shed, mill, and warehouse, at Shipley; by 5th, for the building of two brick bridges at Beverley; by 18th, for the supply and fixing of iron roofs at Tithebarn-street station, Liverpool; by 25th, for foundry, copper-smiths', and brassers' works for the navy; by 5th, for lighting part of Hampstead with naphtha, or essential oil of tar, &c., and for lamp burners, and reflectors, &c.; and by 4th, for repair and paving of foot- and carriage-ways at Westminster.

COMPETITION.—Advertisements have been issued for plans, by 1st proximo, of subscription baths to be erected at Wolverhampton.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE BARTON MUSEUM.—It appears that the buildings in which the vast collection is deposited have cost, since the year 1823, nearly 700,000*l.* The sums which have been expended in purchases upon the collection since that period the commissioners could not learn; but the whole since 1755, independently of the amount expended on the building since 1823, considerably exceeded 1,100,000*l.* The commissioners recommend, in lieu of the present board of 43 trustees,—1. The establishment or revival of an executive government, vested in one person solely responsible for the due execution of his duty, but assisted by a council, to whom he might readily and on all occasions resort for advice and assistance. 2. The establishment of a committee of trustees—a standing committee—elected and undertaking personally to perform all those duties of superintendence, investigation, and control which seem to be the proper and peculiar duties of the trustees, as distinguished from the duties of practical management and executive government, which seem to be the proper and peculiar duties of a governor director. 3. The providing better for the patronage or power of appointing all officers and servants.

LANCEFIELD FORGE, the property of Messrs. Fulton and Neilson, at Anderston, Glasgow, when in full operation employs about 100 persons, with several steam-engines constantly at work. A cutting machine slices iron plates, an inch thick, into small pieces, as a housewife cuts a piece of cheese with a table knife. The scraps are built into heaps, put into a furnace, and drawn out in masses blazing red, and subjected to the "tilt hammer," by which they are beaten into bars, the material for immense shafts, columns, and heavy engine gearing, sometimes requiring 10 or 12 horses to convey them away. The bars by Nasmyth's patented hammers are beaten into larger pieces, and made by them to assume their ultimate form and design. These machines can be made to come down at one moment so softly as scarcely to bruise a blade of grass, and at another with a force that would sink a ship of war. By the help of lever power, two or three men can raise, and turn, and manage the formation of a mass of iron weighing 12 or 14 tons as readily as a blacksmith forges a horse's shoe, and form it so accurately as not to be the sixteenth part of an inch from pattern. The slotting machine is a huge iron structure, about 65 tons weight, by which blocks of cold iron are cut, and grooved, and pared, as easily as pieces of wood in the hands of a carpenter. The workmen here have the use of hot, cold, and shower baths. There was not a single death amongst them during the last twelve months.

A MONUMENT TO THE LATE MR. C. BULLER, M.P., is proposed to be erected in Westminster Abbey. It is to be hoped due regard to the architecture of the building will be paid in determining the character of any future monuments here.

RESTORATION OF ELY CATHEDRAL.—The dean and chapter of Ely have published a statement of the contributions which they have received towards the restoration of their cathedral and the formation of a new choir. Contracts have been entered into for a new open screen, for the throne of the bishop and the stall of the dean, and for new sub-stalls, upon a scale and character suited to the magnificence of the church. They are to be finished before the 1st March, 1851, and their cost will exceed 4,200*l.* The superior stalls, the work of the great architect, Allan de Walsingham, in 1830, are to be restored as nearly as possible to their original condition. Plans are in progress for the removal of the organ to the north side of the choir, with a case and fitting in full accordance with the stall-work. The other works are advancing: the beautiful canopy-work next the altar of the chapel of Bishops Alcock and West, which was nearly destroyed, has been restored. The dean and chapter have been compelled, from a sense of imminent danger, to undertake a very extensive repair of the southern transept, the principal timbers of the roof of which were found to be rotten, and the upper walls and arcades, upon which they rested, seriously dislocated. It is intended to replace the mutilated sculpture of the timber cornice, the painting of the roof, the ancient decorations of the walls, and to open partially the arch of the western aisle.

AMERICAN WHITWASH.—The following recipe is used for preparing the celebrated stucco whitewash, used on the east end of the President's house, at Washington. Take half a bushel of good unslacked lime; slack it with boiling water, covering it during the process to keep in the steam. Strain the liquor through a fine sieve or strainer, and add to it a peck of clean salt previously dissolved in warm water, three pounds of good rice ground to a thin paste and stirred while boiling hot, half-a-pound of powdered Spanish whiting, and a pound of clean glue which has been previously dissolved by first soaking it well and then hanging it over a slow fire in a small kettle within a large one filled with water. Add five gallons of hot water to the whole mixture; stir it well, and let it stand a few days, covered from dirt. It should be put on quite hot; for this purpose it can be kept in a kettle on a portable furnace. It is said that about one pint of this mixture will cover a square yard upon the outside of a house, if properly applied.—*Mining Journal.*

PLAS SYSTEM OF PROPULSION.—In this system, the motive power is that of compressed air. A stationary engine communicates with a cast-iron pipe placed between the rails along the whole length of the line, and by this means air vessels of requisite size, placed at certain distances along the pipe, are filled with air of the wished for density. These air vessels (to speak popularly) supply the momentum to the engine truck, a lever bar attached to the truck opening, as it passes along, a valve or cock, which causes the compressed air to escape into a "chamber" running along the under part of the truck, and thus to become available for propulsion. As regards cost, the calculation is, that it will be 50 per cent. less than that of steam.—*Morning Post.*

MONUMENTAL WINDOW IN WORCESTER CATHEDRAL.—There has been erected a memorial window in this cathedral, by the Rev. Canon Wood, to the memory of his late lady. It is placed in the Baptistry, or Jesus Chapel, in the north aisle of the nave. The stone-work of the window, which is in the Decorated style, has been restored, and the tracery altered so as best to admit of the subjects represented in the various compartments of the head. There are six subjects represented in the body of the window (which consists of three lights), all directly or indirectly connected with the rite of baptism, and the legends underneath each are in Latin. The window was executed by Wailes.

CIRENCESTER.—THE TESSELATED PAVEMENT.—We understand that Earl Bathurst has undertaken, as lord of the manor, the removal and preservation of this relic of antiquity. It is understood that a house will be taken as a museum, and that the pavement will be laid down so as to form the floor of two of the rooms.

OPENING OF TUMULI ON ACHLAM WOLD.—The Yorkshire Antiquarian Club have been recently engaged in opening some of the ancient British tumuli near Achlam and Leavening. In one of a numerous lot at Achlam, on the 14th, was found the skeleton of an ancient, and, we suppose, a true Briton, sitting in an attitude of majestic repose, with head to the north, in that precise magnetic position which has been recommended as a novelty by some profound magnetician of the nineteenth century, as the true or right position into which all the bedsteads of the modern Britons ought at once to be wheeled. The ancient hero lay not only in the right meridional position, however, but also latitudinally right, or, in less scientific terms, on the right side, with a small British urn, the contents of which he seems to have appeared as if contemplating. The urn was much crushed, but the skull has been preserved entire, and is to figure in the Yorkshire Museum, where its owner doubtless never expected it to be. Another tumulus yielded a very large urn crushed and collapsed, but full of calcined bones, and surrounded by various coloured clays. In a third, a curious arrangement of chalk and flint rubble occurred, with some loose bones and marks of fire. A netting-needle appears to have been found in one of the tumuli. The urns were only half baked. The club proposed opening an Anglo-Saxon burial mound, near Driffild, on the 28th.

EXCAVATIONS AT MOUNTSERRREL.—For several weeks past an attempt has been in progress to explore certain supposed remains of the ancient castle which stood on a rock overhanging this town. The task has been planned and carried on by a party of quarrymen, and there is now, it is thought, some prospect of the question being settled as to the existence of a secret mode of access to the castle. The men work, in the evenings only, in a shaft about 12 feet by 11 feet wide, which has been lowered about 50 feet, or between 60 and 70 feet below the surface of the hill. It has been cut out of the solid granite. Nearly 200 tons of old worked material, &c. have been thrown out of it, including cut stones, and oak beams—some 17 feet long and perfectly sound. Nails, bricks of the quarry form, and other curiosities have also been found. An opening of ancient construction, running towards the shaft, has been discovered in a back yard. The blocks of stone thrown out of the shaft, it is thought, may have formed part of a winding staircase for ascent into the castle. Other secret passages are also traditionally believed to exist.

NEW POWER.—A hydraulic gravitation engine, to supersede steam as a motive power, has been projected by a Southampton mechanician, a Mr. Jackson. Once started, it is said, it will go for six months without any sensible wearing of the material. A model is to be submitted to the Admiralty. A metropolitan inventor proposes to assist the action of small locomotive or other steam engines by a large wheel, with sliding weights and leverage so arranged as of themselves to produce a power of progression only requiring the aid of a very small engine to overcome the dead points, where the weights have to be raised in their most disadvantageous position while generating an auxiliary power in descent.

COMPENSATION CASE.—On 10th and 11th ult., an inquiry took place at Ruabon, for assessing compensation to Mr. G. H. Whalley, and others, for the purchase of 1 acre 2 roods 16 perches of land, part of the Plas Madoc estate, by the Shrewsbury and Chester Railway Company. The amount offered was only 140*l.*; but, after a lengthened investigation, the jury brought in a verdict for the purchase of lands, 56*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*, and for residential and other damages, 1,800*l.*—making together 2,364*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*; being more than sixteen times as much as the company had offered!

BRISTOL ART-UNION.—The drawing of the Art-Union connected with the Bristol Fine Arts' Academy took place in the exhibition-room on Wednesday in last week. The number of subscribers was small. A new feature in this year's Art-Union was the presenting to each subscriber an original sketch in lieu of an engraving as heretofore. There were six prizes.